

Message Text

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53

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-11 IO-14

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 RSC-01 SCI-06 FEAE-00 PM-07

DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 DRC-01 /134 W

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R 141250Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3276

INFO AEC GERMANTOWN

IAEA VIENNA 231

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 10803

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN

SUBJ: PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON INDIAN NUCLEAR POSITION

1. THE LOK SABHA (LOWER HOUSE) DEBATE ON THE MAY 18
NUCLEAR EXPLOSION WAS NOTABLE FOR THE UNCOMPROMISING
POSITION INDIA ASSERTED REGARDING ITS RIGHT TO DEVELOP
ITS NUCLEAR PROGRAM FREE OF EXTERNAL INFLUENCE. IN
HIS SUMMARY SPEECH ON AUGUST 8 THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND
POWER (FORMER MIN OF STATE FOR ATOMIC ENERGY) K.C. PANT SAID
QUOTE:

".....THIS EXPLOSION, IF I HAVE UNDERSTOOD THE MOOD OF THE HOUSE
CORRECTLY, HAS BEEN A SYMBOL OF FAITH AND HOPE FOR THE COUNTRY.
IT IS ALSO A SYMBOL OF OUR DETERMINATION TO USE ALL OUR NATURAL
RESOURCES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR COUNTRY, FOR RAISING THE
STANDARD OF LIVING OF OUR PEOPLE AND FOR DEVELOPING OUR SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY. ON THIS QUESTION, THE INDEPENDENCE OF OUR
JUDGMENT IS FINAL. THIS IS A BASIC POINT OF PRINCIPLE, AN
ATTRIBUTE OF OUR SOVEREIGNTY ON WHICH THERE CAN BE NO YIELDING
TO PRESSURE AND ON WHICH THERE CAN BE NO COMPROMISE." END QUOTE.

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2. AN MEA DISARMAMENT EXPERT UNDERSCORED THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS STATEMENT DURING AN INFORMAL CONVERSATION WITH AN EMBASSY OFFICER ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 8.

3. THE LOK SABHA DEBATE ITSELF WAS LARGELY SELF-CONGRATULATORY, AND REPETITIVE. CLAIMS THAT INDIA'S INTENT WAS PEACEFUL WERE PREDOMINANT.
MOYNIHAN

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Message Attributes

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